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MARCH OF DIMES

March of Dimes recognizes State Health Officer for leadership in newborn screening

By: Cindy Ashley

MONTGOMERY – The March of Dimes recognized State Health Officer Dr. Donald Williamson on Sept. 18 for his leadership in newborn screening. Alabama newborns are screened for 30 primary treatable metabolic and functional p6

Alabama's August Unemployment Rate at 6.3%; Cullman at 5.6%

By: Tara Hutchison

MONTGOMERY – Alabama Department of Labor Commissioner Tom Surtees announced today that Alabama's preliminary August unemployment rate is 6.3%, which is slightly up from July's revised rate of 6.2%, but significantly lower than last August's rate of 7.5%. August's rate represents 134,367 unemployed persons, compared to 134,847 last month and 161,435 in August p6

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Mayor Proclaims September 17-23, 2013 "Constitution Week" in Cullman

By: Leanne West

CULLMAN – On Monday, September 16, 2013, Cullman Mayor Max A. Townson proclaimed the week of September 17-23, 2013, "Constitution Week" in the City of Cullman. "Constitution Week" is also recognized throughout the country as the President of the United States issues an official proclamation each year to commemorate this important anniversary.

September 17, 2013, marks the 226th anniversary of the drafting of the Constitution of the United States of America by the Constitutional Convention.

Members of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Sons of the American Revolution, and the Children of the American Revolution commemorate this anniversary each year by ringing bells, flying flags, reading, and becoming acquainted with the Constitution's true contents, and offering prayers for our country as the people of Philadelphia did on the day the document was signed.



Brenda Scott, Mayor Townson, Rhonda Van Zandt

"It is very important that we remember the anniversary of the signing of this most important document," said Mayor Townson. "It is a great privilege to be an American, and I believe everyone should take this opportunity to read our Constitution and learn more it and the history of this great country."

Brenda Scott and Rhonda Van Zandt, members of Dripping Springs Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, received the official proclamation from Mayor Townson.

Those wishing to learn more about the U.S. Constitution and other historical documents can visit www.archives.gov.

Agencies should apply now for supplemental aid

By: Donna Jacobs

CULLMAN – Cullman County has been chosen to receive $25,000 to supplement emergency food and shelter programs in the county. These funds have been made available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The selection was made by a National Board that is chaired by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The local board is charged to distribute funds appropriated by Congress to help expand the capacity of food and shelter programs in high need areas around the country. The local Board is responsible for recommending agencies to receive these funds made available through the Emergency Food and Shelter National Board Program, Phase 31.

Under the terms of the grant from the national Board, local agencies chosen to receive fund must: 1) be private voluntary non-profits or units of government, 2) be eligible to receive federal funds, 3) have an accounting system, 4) practice non-discrimination, 5) have demonstrated the capability to deliver emergency food and/or shelter programs, and 6) if they are private voluntary organization, they must have a voluntary board.

Qualifying agencies are urged to apply. Public and private voluntary agencies interested in applying to the Emergency Food and Shelter Program funds must contact Donna Jacobs at 256-775-2600 or via e-mail at vsoced@vsoccullman.org for an application. The deadline for applications to be received by the local board is Friday Oct. 4, 2013.

Theros pre-release a huge success

By: Josh McBrayer
joshmcbrayer@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN - There was truly "Magic" in the air Saturday night as 25 Magic: The Gathering players, some from as far away as Oneonta, converged on Battleground Gaming which is located in the back of the Wizard on Hwy 157 in Vinemont.

"I am really happy with the turnout," said Battleground Gaming owner William Upton, who was holding his first pre release since the move to the new shop just under a month ago.

The shop was packed to the rafters with players anxious yo receive their color based pre release packs so they could build their decks and play through the five round tournament in hopes of making the top eight so they could get a share of the prize pool.

The players, most of whom had been waiting at the shop since 2pm, where finally able to see what their packs held once the clock struck six and the tournament was officially under way. The tournament was a sealed deck format which means that each player took the five packs that were in their color coordinated box, plus the one pack that held cards specific to the color the player chose, and built a deck.

The tournament itself was five rounds of swiss meaning that a computer matched you up depending on your records and after five rounds, the top eight players took home the prizes.

On a side note, yours truly played in the tournament and took down fourth place.

Cullman Ballet Company - Lifting Up Youth since 1995

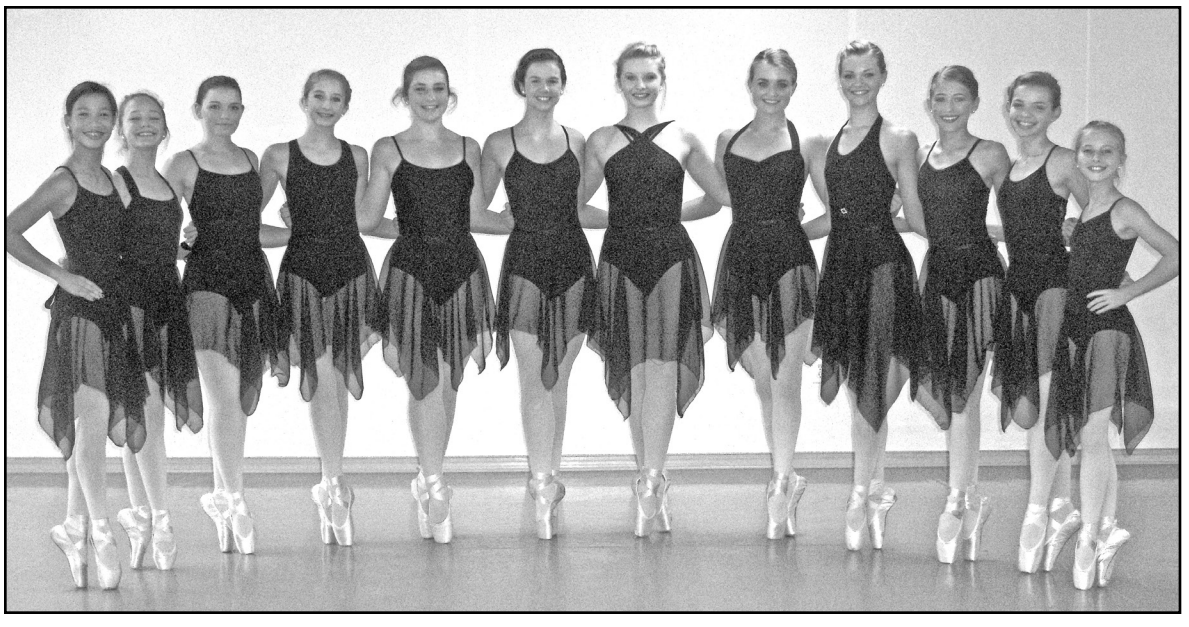
Contributed by: Brian Smith

CULLMAN – The Cullman Ballet Company is the official company of "Ballet Theatre School" of Cullman and sponsored by the Cullman Ballet Society a non-profit organization since 1995.

Elaine Brown Willingham has been the artistic director and owner of "Ballet Theatre School" since 1973. The company was formed to encourage the participation of dedicated dancers of the school to further their dance training. Company and apprentice membership is by audition only.

Performances have included annual Lecture Demonstrations as an outreach to Cullman City and Cullman County Schools, local charity events, pageants, Cullman Oktoberfest, the Panoply choreography competition, the Alabama Dance Festival, and recitals with Ballet Theatre School.

The company has had many talented dancers receive scholarships and also dance professionally with ABT, Harid Conservatory, The Rock School, Kirov Satellite School, Huntsville Ballet, North Carolina Dance Theatre, and Birmingham-Southern College. The Cullman Ballet Company has won 3 times the title of "Honorable Mention" at the Huntsville Panoply Festival and in 2006 qualified for the final round of the competition. For the first time the dancers had the privilege of sharing the stage with the Montgomery Ballet Company for 4 performances of "The Nutcracker" at Wallace State Community College in December of 2010.



Brittany Lee, Lillimae Allen, Sarah Smith, Lydia Waters, Caroline Sutton, Clara Lanier, Breanna Smith, Brooke Noe, Katherine Jackson, Lauryn Tankersley, Gloria Smith, and Mikalie Mooneyham

What's Online

Fun at the Fair

Games galore, a plethora of prizes, and a ride that turns so fast it makes me cringe just watching it. Yep, it's about that time.Welcome to the fair, folks.

qrne.ws/98



CCSO to obtain new raft, trailer with JAG Grant

Following a fatal incident on the Black Warrior River the Cullman County Sheriff's Office realized it was in need of several essential tools, including an ATV, raft and a durable trailer. Now with the help with aide of a nearly $11,000 grant, the CCSO will be able to finally...

qrne.ws/99

CCS releases video of Walker/Cullman altercation

Cullman City Schools released a video on Thursday regarding the physical altercation which took place between Walker head coach John Holladay and Cullman assistant coach Matt Hopper, following the game on Friday...

qrne.ws/100

Medicaid Spending Set to Climb, But States Will Get Temporary Reprieve

By: Michael Ollove • Stateline

Medicaid spending will climb next year by more than 12 percent to $490 billion, largely because of expanded eligibility under President Barack Obama's new federal health law, according to a new report.

The state and local share of the increase (Medicaid is a joint state-federal program) will be minimal, because under the new health care law the federal government will cover 100 percent of the costs of the Medicaid expansion for three years. After that, however, the federal contribution will taper off until it reaches 90 percent in 2020.

The annual report by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) predicts that state and local spending on Medicaid will increase next year by just half a percent, from $187.6 billion to $198.1 billion. However, by 2022, state Medicaid costs are expected to rise to $340 billion, an increase of about 81 percent.

CMS took into account the fact that so far, fewer than half the states have elected to expand Medicaid. Its estimate assumes that in future years, at least some additional states will choose to do so.

Overall, CMS estimates that U.S. health spending, both public and private, will increase by 6.1 percent next year, up from the recent modest pace of about 3.8 percent a year. The report estimates that health spending will rise by about 6.2 percent a year from 2015 to 2022.

CMS predicts that by 2022, federal, state, and local governments will spend $2.4 trillion on health care, accounting for 49 percent of all U.S. health spending, public and private. In 2012, the government share of overall health spending was 45 percent. Those figures include Medicare and other government health programs in addition to Medicaid.

In addition to expanding Medicaid eligibility, the new health care law will require most Americans to have health insurance. The report projects that 11 million currently uninsured Americans will become insured next year, most of them through Medicaid or new state health insurance exchanges where they will be able to buy private, federally subsidized health insurance.

CMS also cites an improving economy and an aging population for the expected higher growth rate in health spending.

Stateline is a nonpartisan, nonprofit news service of the Pew Charitable Trusts that provides daily reporting and analysis on trends in state policy.

Key House Chairman Backs Internet Sales Tax Bill — With Provisions

By: Elaine S. Povich • Stateline

Governors and state legislators Wednesday hailed House Judiciary Committee chairman Bob Goodlatte's decision to work with legislation that would allow states to collect sales taxes on Internet purchases, helping them capture an estimated $23 billion lost annually from online sales.

"We're very pleased by the leadership Chairman Goodlatte is showing on this important and bipartisan issue," said Neal Osten, director of the National Conference of State Legislatures' Washington, D.C. office.

A Virginia Republican, Goodlatte had been skeptical of the legislation, which passed the Senate 69-27 in May, concerned that collecting the sales taxes might be burdensome for small Internet businesses. He outlined a list of principles recently for any legislation on the issue, including making the tax collections simple and inexpensive, particularly for small Internet sellers. He also called for no new taxes to be established by the act and for protection of consumer information.

The National Governors Association, which backs the legislation, praised Goodlatte's move. NGA officials say consumers have been getting away with not paying taxes on Internet purchases.

"The National Governors Association applauds Chairman Goodlatte for his focus on this critical state-federal issue and for making it a priority of the committee," the NGA said in a statement. "Marketplace Fairness is common-sense legislation that upholds the principles of federalism and levels the playing field between Main Street and e-street. It helps states, encourages competition and preserves Main Street jobs."

The Internet sales tax issue stems from a 1967 U.S. Supreme court decision that said companies need a physical presence in a state for that state to impose taxes on its sales. But in the Internet age, when purchases increasingly are made online, stores with a physical presence are losing business to online competition. Not collecting sales taxes gives a price advantage to online retailers, backers of the Marketplace Fairness Act say.

The legislation, supported by President Barack Obama, would allow states to require remote retailers to collect state sales taxes. Online retailers had been the biggest opponents of the legislation, but that has begun to change with the decision of Amazon and Walmart to support the bill. The big companies say it's unfair to require businesses to collect sales taxes only in states where they have a physical presence.

Stateline is a nonpartisan, nonprofit news service of the Pew Charitable Trusts that provides daily reporting and analysis on trends in state policy.

Statewide report on healthcare-associated infections in Alabama hospitals issued

By: Nadine Crawford

MONTGOMERY – Alabama's hospitals again outperformed the nation in the prevention of healthcare-associated infections. This was released in the 2012 annual infection report posted online recently by the Alabama Department of Public Health. The report includes data reported by hospitals in 2012, along with a comparison to the data reported in 2011.

"Our hospitals performed better than the nation in all four categories being reported," said Dr. Donald Williamson, state health officer. "In last year's report, they were better in three of the four categories, which include catheter-associated urinary tract infections, central line-associated bloodstream infections, and two types of surgical site infections. Not only do I want to congratulate hospitals, but I'd like to thank the members of the Alabama Healthcare Data Advisory Council and the ADPH staff who have worked very hard to ensure accurate reporting and to make the information as easy as possible to understand."

The hospital-specific information allows consumers to review the data by region and by the volume of patients and may be found at www.adph.org. Additional information on infection prevention can be accessed at www.jointhehealthjourney.com.

"The goal of the statewide reporting is to provide useful information to the public and to encourage greater reductions in infections," added Dr. Williamson. "Alabama's hospitals are reducing infections. This report reflects the significant work of infection practitioners, nurses, physicians, and other hospital staff, and provides a great way for hospitals to identify and learn from top performers."

"Our hospitals performed better than the nation in all four categories being reported"

Dr. Donald Williamson • State Health Officer

Dr. Williamson added that the report should not take the place of discussions between patients and their physicians when choosing a hospital. "While this report is important and helpful, it should not be used as the sole factor in the selection of a hospital," Dr. Williamson stated.

Mike Horsley, FACHE, president of the Alabama Hospital Association, echoed Dr. Williamson's praise for hospitals and reinforced the goal of reducing infections. "All hospitals are striving to eliminate infections and have achieved much success. In a recent national project to reduce central line-associated bloodstream infections, Alabama's hospitals had the second highest participation rate in the country and achieved a 53 percent reduction in two years. In addition, Alabama was the pilot for an automated infection surveillance system that has significantly reduced infections over the last 10 years and has become a model for other states."

Horsley noted that while there is still work to be done on preventing infections, great progress is being made. He also applauded the work of the Alabama Healthcare Data Advisory Council in making meaningful information available to the public.

Laurel Wilt Disease Confirmed in Trees in Greene County

Contributed Alabama Forestry Commission

MONTGOMERY – According to officials with the Alabama Forestry Commission (AFC), the existence of laurel wilt disease has now been positively identified in Greene County. After "wilting" sassafras trees were recognized by agency personnel along Highway 43 in the southern portion of the county, stem samples were collected from one of these symptomatic trees and sent to the USDA Forest Service laboratory for verification, where results confirmed the presence of laurel wilt fungus (Raffaelea lauricola). This confirmation makes the third county in Alabama, where the disease was detected in Marengo and Mobile counties in 2011.

In North America, trees in the laurel (Lauraceae) family are susceptible to laurel wilt. Redbay and swampbay are the most common host species of the disease, but sassafras is being attacked more frequently. Other laurel species such as avocado, pondspice, pondberry, spicebush, and camphor are also potential hosts.

The only known causal agent of laurel wilt disease is the redbay ambrosia beetle (Xyleborus glabratus), imported from Southeast Asia. It has continued to spread into new territories by natural progression and the movement of infested fire wood. Since its initial detection in Georgia in 2002, the disease has spread into five other southeastern states – South Carolina, North Carolina, Florida, Mississippi, and Alabama.

Approximately 1/16-inch-long and dark brown to black, the redbay ambrosia beetle bores into a host tree and infects it with the deadly laurel wilt fungus. Leaves on the affected tree eventually turn olive-grey to reddish-brown. In most cases, the symptom of wilting leaves first appears on a single branch, but soon afterwards will be present throughout the entire crown. At times, small round entrance holes are noticeable on the stems from which toothpick-like tubes of compacted sawdust may protrude. The affected tree eventually dies within 4 to 12 weeks after the initial attack.

Controlling this disease can be quite difficult. Salvaging infested trees and chipping the wood into small one-inch pieces can impede the spread. Burning the wood or covering it with a tarpaulin can also stop the movement of redbay ambrosia beetles. Another useful action is halting the transport of infested wood long distances to prevent new introductions of this disease into unaffected areas. If wilting leaves are identified on redbay or sassafras trees, please contact your local AFC office. At this time, early detection is the best method for documenting and potentially stopping the spread of this disease. For more information on laurel wilt, redbay ambrosia beetles, and other non-native invasive pests, visit dontmovefirewood.org. The mission of the Alabama Forestry Commission is to protect and sustain Alabama's forest resources using professionally applied stewardship principals and education, ensuring that the state's forests contribute to abundant timber and wildlife, clean air and water, and a healthy economy. For more visit forestry.alabama.gov.

High School Football Week 4 Roundup

By: Josh McBrayer
joshmcbrayer@cullmansense.com

It is hard to believe that week four is already in the books. This week was a rivalry week with important implications on the playoffs that everyone is working towards. So without further ado, here is the action.

Cullman 14 vs. Hartselle 6
By: Josh McBrayer

CULLMAN - Following a hard fought victory against perennial rival, Cullman quarterback Tyler Glenn was all smiles.

"We knew this was a big game," said Glenn." None of the seniors have ever beaten Hartselle so that was our goal. To walk off this field and win, and we did it. We did it," he said with a smile.

Like most of the games the Bearcats have played in the first half of the season, this one was also a back and forth affair.

Cullman looked great in the opening minutes of the game, chewing up big chunks of yardage through the air. Starting on their own 34, Cullman quickly moved into Hartselle territory thanks to Glenn's arm and the running back combo of Garrett Crider and Will Crenshaw. Glenn completed the 66 yard drive when he hit a wide open Mason Jones who streaked down the near sideline for the score. The PAT was dead center and the Bearcats held a 7-0 lead over the rival Tigers just 2:32 into the contest.

Thanks to a 47 yard kickoff return from junior Jaylan Jackson, Hartselle started their first possession just inside the Cullman 47. Tiger QB Jake Tiffin started hot, connecting with his receivers for 16 and 11 on his first three throws. Tiffin also connected on his fourth throw but unfortunately for him, the player who caught the ball was named Trey Moon and he was wearing black and gold.

The interception stopped the Hartselle drive but Cullman could only advance the ball close to midfield before being forced to punt.

Throwing a pick did not seem to faze Tiffin as he went right back to the air in the second series. He found Jamal Jackson for a 34 yard bomb to, once again, put Hartselle in a position to make an assault on Cullman's endzone. Although D'Andre Mack rattled off runs of 16 and 9, the Tigers could not cross the goal line and had to settle for a 24 yard field goal. 7-3 Cullman.

Cullman and Hartselle would spend the rest of the half trading missed field goals and interceptions, including another by Moon that allowed the Bearcats to take a knee and head to the locker room up 7-3.

The Tigers would receive the ball to start the second half and looked as if they were finally going to score the touchdown that had eluded them thus far. However, it was not to be as the Cullman defense stood strong once more and Hartselle was forced to settle for a 44 yard field goal.

Another missed Cullman field goal and several punts later, by both sides, the game was still as close as you can get at 7-6. This all changed when Glenn took the snap from center and flipped it to freshman Ross Crocker. The entire Hartselle defense took the bait and looked to stop Crocker from running the ball. Little did they know, Crenshaw was wide open down the near side and Crocker hit him in stride for the 46 yard touchdown to put Cullman up by eight, 14-6, in the crucial 5A Region 8 contest.

On the very next Hartselle possession Tiffin threw his third pick of the game, this time to Logan Shugarts who ran it all the way back for the score but the touchdown was wiped off the board due to a Cullman block in the back. Unable to score or run out the clock, the Bearcats were forced to punt the ball back the Tigers.

Hartselle set up shop at their own 7, needing to go 93 yards in less than two minutes with no timeouts. The Tigers, who had relied on the arm of Tiffin this far, let him air it out and Hartselle found themselves at the Cullman 30 with seven seconds left and one last chance. Tiffin took the snap and rolled to his left, heaving the ball to the front corner of the endzone where it skidded off the fingertips of Tobias Mitchell and fell harmlessly to the ground, giving the Bearcats the all-important victory over Hartselle.

With wins over East Limestone, West Point, and now Hartselle, Cullman has placed themselves in a very favorable position in Region 8.

Fairview 12 vs. Locust Fork 16
By: Matthew Glover

FAIRVIEW - Big plays and big mistakes were the story Friday night at Dafford Smith Stadium and the Fairview Aggies had their share of both.

Locust Fork started things off on their first drive by going 44 yards in 7 plays in route to the first score of the game taking the lead 6-0 after the extra point attempt was blocked.

Fairview failed to achieve a first down in their first drive going three and out. Locust Fork took advantage of the short field and quickly went 38 yards in 8 plays to increase their advantage to 13.

Again Fairview found itself facing another three and out. After a scrambling to avoid the oncoming pressure, Hayden Maples located Ethan Widner, completing a short pass while on the run. Widner then turned it up the field bouncing off several defenders to gain 41 yards and the lone Fairview first down in the first half. After the huge conversion they would lose 5 yards in the following three plays to set up 4th and 15 on the Locust Fork 26. From here the Aggie fortunes turned. Maples hooked up with Widner again inside the ten. Widner then carried a defender with him across the goal line to put the Aggies on the board. The point after was blocked, making the score 13-6 in favor of the Hornets just ten seconds in to the second quarter.

With 7:09 remaining in the half, Locust Fork would extend their lead to 10 on a 22 yard field goal. The two teams spent the remainder of the half trading turnovers. The score stood at 16-6 in favor of the visiting Hornets after 24 minutes of play.

Unlike the first quarter, the third was not kind to Locust Fork. The Hornets would only manage 25 yards and were held without a single first down in the entire third quarter. The third was not much kinder to the Aggies who could not get get any traction. Although they were able to drive the ball, they could not find the endzone, having one drive ending with a fumble on Locust Fork's one yard line.

However, the fourth was a different story. The Fairview defense again come up big, forcing a three and out and Fairview would not squander the good field position. They took the ball 46 yards on 6 plays, ending on a Sambo Woods 3 yard plunge in the end zone, pulling the Fairview to within four, 16-12.

Holding on to the slim lead, Locust Fork would drive 50 yards and burn the clock down to under five minutes remaining in the game, before being forced to punt, however the Aggie drive would stall and they were forced to punt the ball back to the Hornets. Locust Fork would again burn as much clock as possible, forcing Fairview to use their remaining timeouts before punting.

Fairview would get the ball back with less than two minutes remaining, on their own 6, with no timeouts. Maples completed his first three attempts, gaining 29 yards and 2 first downs to the Aggie 35. Maples would then throw three straight in-completions, setting up fourth and ten with 36 seconds left. Maples found Bailey Strong but the receiver was a yard shy of the first down. Locust Fork would take one knee to end the game. Taking home a hard fought 16-12 victory.

Good Hope 0 vs. Hamilon 45
By: Jim Stinson

HAMILTON – The Hamilton Aggies were dominating on both sides of the ball, giving the visiting Good Hope Raiders their 1st loss of the season 45-0.

With Senior QB Sebastian Fendley out with a broken arm, the Aggie defense focused on stopping the rushing attack of Good Hope and they did just that, holding the Raiders leading rusher, Jared McClure, to just 30 yards on 18 carries.

The Aggies jumped out to a 20-0 lead in the 1st quarter with 3 rushing touchdowns by Garret May and never looked back.

Hamilton only scored twice in the second half, a 22 yard scamper by Scott and a 12 yard Bryson Bridge rushing TD.

On a bright note for the Raiders, Senior Justin Turner intercepted a Justin Scott pass towards the end of the 1st half, giving him an interception in every game thus far into the season.

Vinemont 14 vs. Hanceville 35
By: Zeke McBrayer

VINEMONT - Hanceville was aggressive right out of the gate. The Bulldog's Carlos Chacon racked up 35 yards and the TD as Hanceville took the early lead. Vinemont would look to answer, but on the second Continued ➤

Auburn Soccer Races Past Southern Miss, 6-0

By: John Thomas

AUBURN – The Auburn women's soccer team rolled past Southern Mississippi, 6-0, Sunday afternoon at the Auburn Soccer Complex. With the victory, Auburn moves to 4-4-1 on the season as junior goalkeeper Alicen Wright earned her first win and shutout of the season.

Auburn received goals from junior Chelsea Gandy-Cromer, sophomore Logan Beal, junior Tori Ball, sophomore Haley Gerken, freshman Casie Ramsier, and freshman Taylor Wagnon. The Tigers tallied 19 shots in the match with 10 corner kicks, seven coming in the first half. For Wagnon and Gerken, it was their first goals of their collegiate careers.

"We really wanted to press on the defensive side," Auburn head coach Karen Hoppa said. "Our offense, too, was firing on all cylinders especially in that second half. It was great to see a lot of people get a lot of looks at the goal and have a lot of different goal scorers today. It was really positive for our team."

Gandy-Cromer scored the winning goal of the match not long into the first half. Her third goal of the season came in the 14th minute after she received a nice pass from Ball just outside the goal box.

Auburn found the back of the net again, 15 minutes later, after Beal dropped in her first goal of the season, connecting on a cross from sophomore Kala Faulkner to give the Tigers the 2-0 lead as the match hit halftime.

The Orange and Blue got back to their scoring ways almost 16 minutes into the second half as Ball extended the Tigers' lead to three in the 60th minute.

Ball took advantage of a rebound off the Southern Miss goalkeeper, Brittany Taylor, earning the unassisted goal, her third of the year.

Auburn stayed on the gas pedal as just two minutes later Gerken scored her first collegiate goal when Taylor's attempt to punch away Bianca Sierra's free-kick was stopped by Gerken, who put it in the back of the net.

Eight minutes later, Ramsier punched in her fourth goal of the season, scoring off a nice header after getting the cross from Gandy-Cromer right in front of the net. With the score today, Ramsier has scored in four of Auburn's last five matches.

Wagnon finished off the Tiger scoring for the day as she also notched her first collegiate goal in the waning minutes of the match. Wagnon blasted a cross from Haley Roberson into the corner of the net from just outside of the box giving Auburn the decisive 6-0 finish.

Auburn will hit the road for their next match as it will travel to Columbia, S.C. to take on the South Carolina Gamecocks on Friday, starting at 5 p.m. CST. It will then travel to Oxford, Miss. to face Ole Miss on Sunday at 1 p.m. All matches can be heard locally on WEGL 91.1 or online at Auburn-Tigers.com.



Roundup (Continued)

play a fumble by John Michael Dye would give Hanceville the ball on their own 22 yard line. It would only take four plays for the Bulldogs to punch it in again, this time on a 15-yard QB keep by Caleb Hurst. The Bulldogs would go for the 2-point conversion and make it to extend their lead to 14-0.

It would take Vinemont 14 plays and the remainder of the first quarter to finally reach the end-zone. John Michael Dye led the charge with 36 yards on the ground but it would be a pass from Kurtis Brawner to Blake Melton that put Vinemont on the board. The extra point was no good and Vinemont trailed 14-6.

Hanceville came out on their first possession of the second quarter and showed no sign of letting up. After a big sack by the Eagles' Sam Wood and Garrett Sipe, the Bulldogs were backed up on a second and long. Just one play later, Hurst would again keep the ball and take it 55-yard to the 5-yard line. This time Torrey Green would be the one to punch it in and, after a successful 2-point conversion, would make the lead 22-6.

After each defense held the other to a punt, the Eagles would come back out on offense. Dye led the march downfield, with Brawner throwing in a pair of rushes, and punching the ball in from 12 yards out. On his touchdown, Dye would break 100-yards in the first half for the second time this season. This had the team fired up and the Eagles defense held the Bulldogs to a three and out. Vinemont had the momentum and two beautiful passes from Brawner to Melton and Garrett Boland would put the Eagles on the 5 yard line with 6 seconds to go. The Bulldogs would read the QB rush however and keep Vinemont out of the end-zone.

The second half was all Hanceville. Vinemont's defense was worn out and couldn't contain Torrey Green who powered his way to two more touchdowns to make the final score 35-14. Vinemont's offense was kept off the field mainly because of turnovers. The Eagles committed six turnovers, five of which came in the second half, while only forcing three.

Vinemont was led by John Michael Dye who had 153 yards and a touchdown, but lost three fumbles. Kurtis Brawner finished 4/7 and 82 yards, 1 TD, and 1INT. Blake Melton ended the night with 51 receiving yards and a TD for Vinemont.

The Bulldogs were led by Carlos Chacon, who had 82 yards and a TD, and Torrey Green, who finished with only 52 yards but racked up 3 TDs. Caleb Hurst finished 3/8 with 18 yards but tacked on 61 rushing yards and a TD.

West Point vs. Russllville
By: Phillip Hillman

RUSSLEVILLE - It was a wet night in Russellville as the 1-2 West Point Warriors took on the 1-2 Russellville Golden Tigers. It was a game that looked promising at kickoff for the Warriors, but as the field became wetter it went downhill from there with the Warriors only having 74 total yards versus Russellville's 293.

Bryant Farley had 35 of the Warrior's passing yards going 4 for 10. As the rain kept coming down, the score just kept rising to finish out the game Russellville 35 to West Point 0. The Warriors are at home next week against the 3-1 Hanceville Bulldogs.

Holly Pond 6 vs. Sylvania 33
By: Howard Cole

HOLLY POND - Sylvania scored early and often, controlling the game Friday night against the Holly Pond Broncos, in route to a 33-6 victory over the struggling Broncos.

Holly Pond opened the game with the football but soon found themselves on defense due to an interception by Skylar Chaney. Sylvania took full advantage of the Bronco miscue, scoring just three plays later and barely three minutes into the game.

On the ensuing kickoff, Holly Pond lost grip on the football and Sylvania recovered. Less than 60 seconds after their last score, the Rams would punch it in again to go up 13-0. Another score at the end of the first gave them a commanding 19-0 lead after one.

The second quarter was a see-saw affair that saw interceptions, fumbles, and punts. Sylvania was able to put seven more on the board late in the third, taking a 26-0 to the half.

The Rams picked up right where they left off to open the third. Dax Shrader was on the receiving end of a pass and he did the rest, racing down the field before finally being caught at the seven, He finished the drive with a one yard plunge to put the Rams up 33-0 and that is where the score would stand for the remainder of the third.

The Broncos, down but not out, continued to scratch and claw and were rewarded with their first and only score of the night. QB Lambert marched his team down the field completing passes to Vasquez and Corbin before calling his own number and taking the ball in the endzone for six. The touchdown would put a cap on the scoring on the night and Sylvania would walk away winners, 33-6.

There it is folks, week four in a nutshell. Come out and support your favorite local team in week five.

Wallace State volleyball outlasts conference rival Gadsden State in four close sets, remains undefeated in ACCC play

By: Russell Moore
WSCC Contributor

HANCEVILLE – Wallace State's young volleyball team grew up considerably recently, outlasting conference rival Gadsden State in four sets to remain perfect in Alabama Community College Conference (ACCC) play.

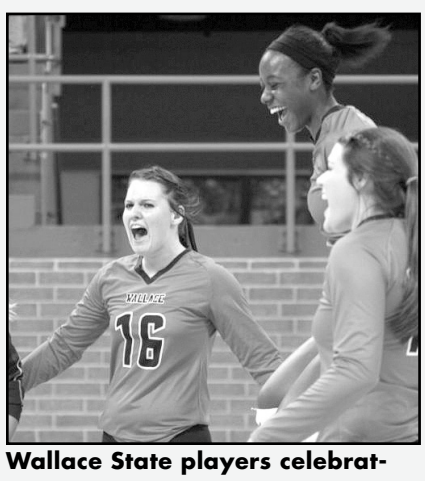
Wallace State outside hitter Montana Clark closed out the tight, intense match with three consecutive kills and finished with 18 digs and 10 kills, lifting the Lions to a 25-13, 25-23, 22-25, 25-23 victory at Tom Drake Coliseum.

The win avenged a opening-season tournament loss to the Cardinals on Aug. 30.

The Lions (12-7, 6-0 ACCC), the four-time defending state champions, battled back from early deficits in each set they won and nearly rallied from nine points down in the third set to sweep Gadsden State.

"It was hard-fought win for us. We have a lot of respect for Gadsden State this year. It's one of the best team I've seen them have. It's encouraging to see us win these close sets considering how inexperienced we are," said Wallace State coach Randy Daniel, whose team features 11 freshmen and only three sophomores. "We've worked really hard the last two or three weeks, and I think that's putting us in the right direction. I'm very happy our team found a way to win. Give a lot of credit to our players."

Sophomore Kianna Delaney finished with a team-high 20 kills and added eight blocks and four digs for Wallace State, Bre-Anna Thompson had 13 kills, Bethany Johnson added 11 kills and two digs, and Syretha Pride finished with eight kills and three blocks. Taylor Traglia put together a team-high 21 assists, Blaise Brown contributed 10 assists, and Nicole Penny had five. Rosemary Wendel had 16 digs for the Lions, while Payton Norris added seven.



Wallace State players celebrating, from left, are Montana Clark (16), Syretha Pride, and Bethany Johnson after the team scores a point against Gadsden State.

Wallace State won the first set after trailing early, 6-2. After pulling it even at 7-7, the Lions closed the first set on a 19-6 run.

It was more of the same in the second set. Gadsden State built leads of 13-9 and 17-13 before Wallace State rallied again. The Lions tied it at 17-17 and again at 21-21 before doubling up the Cardinals to close it out.

Gadsden State orchestrated a 20-11 cushion in the third set and eventually held off another strong Wallace State charge to win its lone set of the match.

Wallace State had to come from behind again in the fourth and final set. Gadsden State held a 16-11 lead before the Lions answered with a 6-1 run to notch things up at 17-17.

There were five more ties before Wallace State scored the final two points of the set, getting three consecutive kills from Clark to seal the victory.

Wallace State continues conference play Wednesday, traveling to Snead State for a 6 p.m. match.

For more information about Wallace State athletics, visit wallacestate.edu.

cullman city parks & recreation

WHAT'S ON DECK AT PARKS AND REC....

www.cullmanrecreation.org
256-734-9157

- **Yoga Classes**: Stay fit and relax with yoga held at the Civic Center every Tuesday night at 6:00pm with Fabian Holland. Six classes for $40 or $30 for seniors.
- **Nia Dance/Ageless Grace Fitness Classes:** Includes yoga stretching, anti-aging tips, and more with instructor Ann Caretti. Class is held Tuesdays at 10:00am at the Cullman Civic Center.
- **Oil Painting and Acrylic Classes:** Classes are held Mondays from 6:30-9:30pm at the Cullman Art Guild with instructor Delancey Gardner. Class is $20 per month, call 256-734-9157 for details.
- **Dog Obedience Classes:** Tina Cagle Parker will be holding dog obedience classes at the Cullman Civic Center on Tuesday nights beginning on Tuesday, August 13 at 6pm. Class is 6 weeks after first week orientation. Puppy class at 6pm and adult class at 7pm. $65 per dog; register at the Civic Center.
- **CLUCKNBREW:** CP&R will be holding Clucknbrew, a wingfest event on Saturday, September 7 at Depot Park. There will be a wing cook off, live music, beer, a kid's zone, games, and more. The event will be held from 3pm-9pm. Call 256-734-9157 for details.
- **Fall Baseball/Softball Registration:** August 1-20 at the Cullman Civic Center for ages 6-8 and 9-12. Cost per child is $75 or $350 per team. Fall Men's and Coed softball is also registering from August 1-20 at Heritage Park for $350 per team. Call 256-739-9931 for details.
- **Wilderness Survival Classes:** Held at Hurricane Creek Park on Sunday afternoons at 1pm, this course teaches basic survival skills including building a shelter, fire, finding safe water, and navigating. Register in advance by calling 256-734-2125.
- **First Time Rock Climbing:** Available for anyone interested in trying rock climbing with little or no experience. The program is offered on Saturday mornings at Hurricane Creek Park to anyone 6&up. A professional guide will be on site and all gear is included. Reserve ahead at 256-734-2125.
- **Tee off at Cullman Golf Course:** Come by our beautiful 18 hole course and relax with a game of golf! Discounts daily after 2pm. Call to book a time at 256-739-2386.

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Learning on Location

By: Noah Chandler
noahchandler@cullmansense.com

Good Hope Elementary field trip allows students behind the scenes access to area professions

CULLMAN – Most adults engage in daily duties such as mailing a letter, making a deposit at a local bank, and induldging at a bakery for a sweet treat before they head back to work in haste. For children though, each of these stops along the way provides them with a new opportunity to learn about how the world works, even if it is for a short time.

Recently, students attending Good Hope Elementary were treated to a day of firsthand learning as seven Kindergarten classes made their way around Cullman.

"We are doing a unit on community helpers on bakers, bankers, police officers, and other jobs in the community," Amanda McKenney, Kindergarten teacher, said."Since we are doing that unit, we (teachers) thought it would be a great way to show the kids what these jobs look like, up-close."

Each of the students began their day differently, as each of the classes separated into different groups to fully maximum the time at each location.

For some it started at the Cullman Post Office, for others it began at Flavors Bakery with a walk through by baker Ms. Janet.

"I really like chocolate cookies," Makaila Anderson said. "I really liked the bakery too."

Each student was treated to a chocolate chip cookie, compliments of Flavors owner Lisa Durcholz.

Next on the tour was the Cullman County Sheriff's Office and Jail.

Each of the classes took turns walking the hallways of investigators, detectives, deputies, and even those currently serving time at the detention center.

"It's a real eye-opener and I think every child in the county should come visit the jail where they can walk in and freely leave, instead of waiting to have be behind bars," Sheriff Mike Rainey said.

"It's an educational program and we work for them (children) the same way we work for their parents and grandparents, so it's important for them to see what we do and where we work."

Students were able to visit inside the dispatch headquarters to see how 9-1-1 calls are answered, along with visiting with SWAT members to view up close the firearms needed by police units before making a quick stop inside the detention center.

"We don't show them anything they don't need to see, but at the same time they do need to know what a jail looks like," Sheriff Rainey said.

Briana Schuman, Kindergarten teacher, said the visit to the Cullman County Sheriff's Office was a great time for all the children.

"It was great. The kids loved it," Schuman said.

"It was neat for them to be able to see what happens when you grow up and make bad choices."

While visiting the Cullman Post Office the kindergarten students each mailed a letter to themselves.

Schuman said watching the students as they open their letters is a feature she is looking forward to seeing.







Unemployment (from Front)

2012.

"Alabama's August unemployment rate doesn't really show much change over the month," said Surtees.

"While we saw a slight increase in jobs, we didn't really see much change in the number of people who remain unemployed. Getting these people back to work continues to be our top priority."

Wage and salary employment, or the measure of the number of jobs in the economy, increased 3,400 in August.

There were gains in the professional and business services sector, the educational and health services sector, and the government sector.

"Although the numbers indicate that fewer people are actively looking for jobs this month, this is somewhat expected at this time of year," continued Surtees.

"It is not uncommon for the labor force to decline in August, as students leave the labor market to go to school, and those in the education field return to work. We are encouraged by the fact that nearly 20,000 more people are working this August than were last August."

The Civilian Labor Force (CLF), or the number of people who are able and looking for work, was 2,149,716 in August 2013, compared to 2,159,298 in July and 2,157,965 last year.

The number of people employed was 2,015,349 compared to 2,024,451 and 1,996,530 last year.

The counties with the lowest unemployment rates are: Shelby County at 4.5%, Lee County at 5.5%, and Cullman and Baldwin Counties at 5.6%.

The counties with the highest unemployment rates are: Wilcox County at 16.0%, Dallas County at 14.1%, and Perry County at 14.0%.

March of Dimes (from Front)

disorders as recommended by the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services and endorsed by the March of Dimes and the American Academy of Pediatrics.

While most of the disorders are rare, they are usually serious. Some may be life threatening; others may slow down a baby's physical development or cause mental retardation or other problems if left undetected and untreated. On June 21 Alabama added a screening test for Critical Congenital Heart Disease (CCHD), bringing the total number of primary screening tests to 30.

"The March of Dimes applauds Dr. Williamson for his unwavering commitment to newborn screening," said Camille A. Epps, March of Dimes state director.

"Screening for treatable conditions immediately after birth can mean the difference between a healthy life or a severe disability or even death for a newborn. Tragedy can be avoided by quickly identifying a problem and providing the necessary medical treatment—which brings immeasurable relief to the families of almost 60,000 babies born in Alabama every year."

Screening of infants by measuring blood oxygen saturation using pulse oximetry technology can identify specific structural heart defects and prevent delayed diagnosis and treatment. Each birthing facility in the state has implemented screening for CCHD in its newborn nursery and reports failed screening results to the department.

The screening is painless and noninvasive and targets seven specific and five secondary cardiac anomalies.

Ten Alabama newborns have been identified with congenital heart defects that might have gone undetected had they not had CCHD screening that began in April 2012 on a voluntary basis. As a result, these infants have been afforded access to diagnostic evaluation through pediatric specialists to receive specialized care and treatment that could prevent death or disability.

"Our success in implementing newborn screening for CCHD has been made possible thanks to the collaboration of many stakeholders whose expertise is crucial to the process," Dr. Williamson said. "I am pleased to accept this recognition from the March of Dimes on behalf of the members of the Newborn Screening Advisory Council, the CCHD Workgroup, the Alabama Hospital Association, parent advocates, the Bureau of Family Health Services, and others."

The Alabama Newborn Screening Program began the process to screen for CCHD in September 2011. The CCHD workgroup was convened in November and December 2011 to create a standard protocol for pulse oximetry screening in Alabama's well baby nurseries.

In August 2012, just four months after screening began, an infant was identified with CCHD. After one year of voluntary screening, the Alabama Board of Health Administrative Code was amended to include CCHD. Alabama became the 22nd state to add CCHD to the state screening panel, according to the March of Dimes.

Newborn screening has been named one of the top public health achievements of the 20th century. Alabama remains ahead of the national average in screening its newborns. During 2012, 162 infants were identified with a primary newborn screening condition.

Alabama screens for 30 primary disorders and over 40 total disorders, including secondary conditions.

Most affected babies have the opportunity grow up healthy and develop normally through a simple blood screen that saves babies from death or disability.

Riding for a Cause









By:Noah Chandler
noahchandler@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – Alabama Sons of Liberty teamed up with riders from state clubs, law enforcement officials, and various others to raise money and awareness for the Wounded Warrior Project.

The ride began at the Cullman County Courthouse shortly after 10 a.m. last Saturday.

Over 150 riders converged on the area to register before departing to a scenic route across Northwest Alabama.

Once making the loop across the Tennessee River, the riders headed back to Cullman to enjoy a catfish and chicken dinner, compliments of the Cullman Elks Lodge.

For more on this story, including aerial photos of the ride out, visit CullmanSense.com.

Victim Services of Cullman

Domestic Violence Training

Victim Services of Cullman is offering a free training open to DHR employees, law enforcement, justice system personnel, advocates, service providers and other community stakeholders. We will look at the effects of domestic violence on children, the use of technology and social media in domestic violence relationships and how you can become an engaged bystander.

Grace Episcopal Church Fellowship Hall

Thursday, October 17, 2013

8:00 am—Noon

Registration: 8:00-8:30

The Use of Technology in DV Relationships	***Presenter: Bridgette Wilder, Verizon Wireless***
The Effects of DV on Children	***Presenter: Emily Kelly, ACADV***
Becoming an Engaged Bystander	***Presenter: Traci Bynum, Crisis Services of North Alabama***

Register below and return to VSOC no later than October 14,2013.

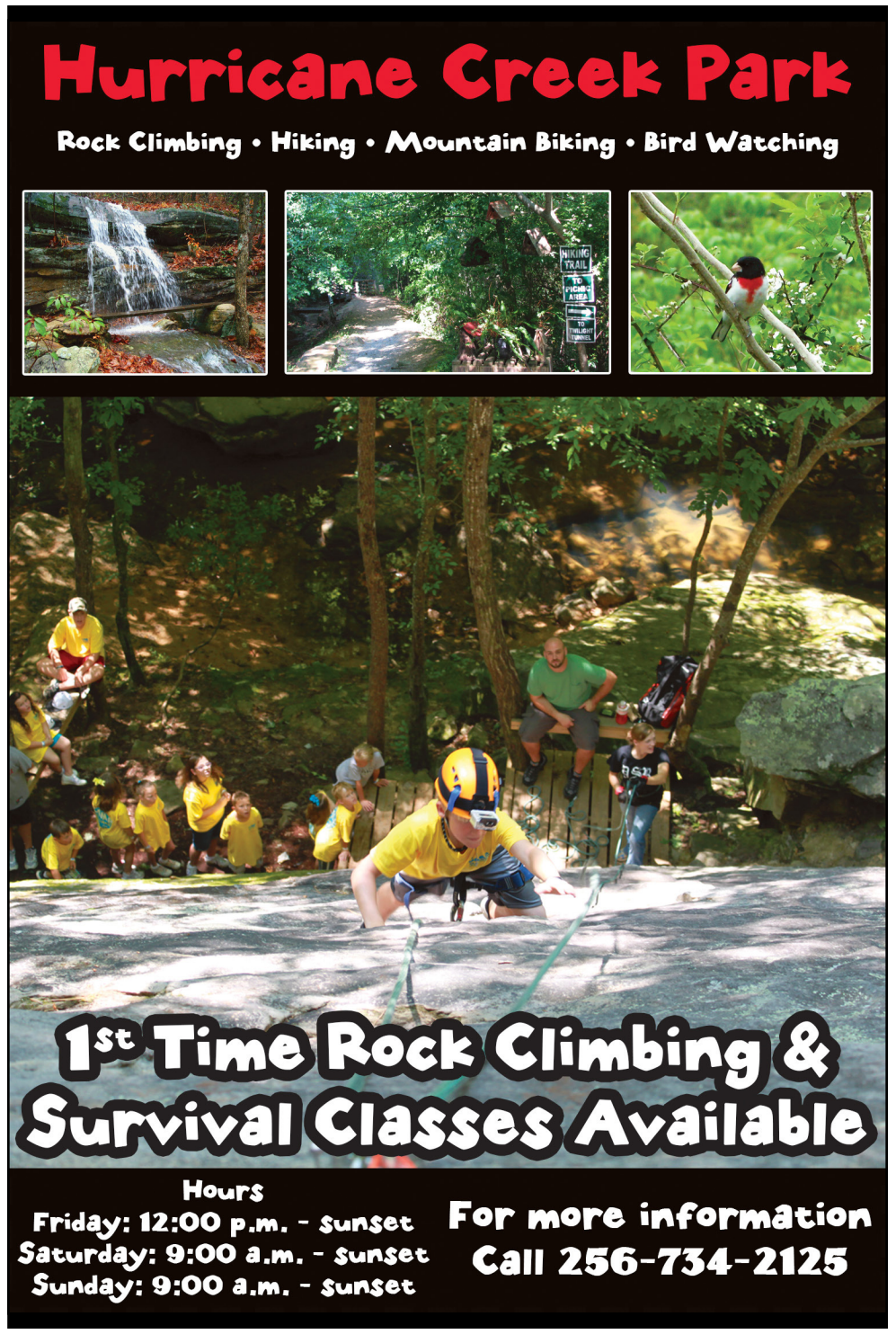
Name:_____ Email:_____

Agency:_____ Phone:_____

**Social Work CEU's in process for this training*.

Please return via email or fax to:
vsoced@vsoccullman.org
Fax: 256-775-8354

United Way



– Calendar –

Submit your event to
calendar@cullmansense.com

Monday

Cullman Kiwanis Club
The Cullman Kiwanis Club invites all local men and women who are interested in taking part in community service along with great fellowship, fun, networking, and learning to attend their weekly luncheon meeting at 12 noon each Monday in the All Steak's third floor banquet room. Come see what Kiwanis is all about and enjoy a great luncheon meal as well.

Domestic Violence Survivor Support Group
Victim Services of Cullman sponsors a Domestic Violence Survivor Support Group meeting every Monday evening from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. in the old County Board of Education Building with childcare available. For additional information please call 256-775-2600. CRISIS HOTLINE - 256-734-6100.

Overeaters Anonymous Gather at Grace Episcopal
Members of Overeaters Anonymous meet every Monday, at 9:30 a.m. at Grace Episcopal Church in the Carriage House located on Church premises. Further information is available at 256-747-6218 or 256-352-1143. Everyone is invited to attend these gatherings.

GED Classes at Desperation Church
GED learning classes are held each Monday night from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Desperation Church. For additional information please contact Ed Oaks at 256-737-9564 or 256-735-6811. These classes are open to the public and everyone who wants to obtain their GED is welcome to participate.

Cornerstone Revival Ladies Prayer Meeting
A Ladies Prayer meeting is conducted each Monday night at 7 p.m. at Cornerstone Revival Center. For additional information call 256-796-2899. All interested women are invited to attend.

Aqua Zumba Classes at CWAC
Everyone is invited to take part in the Aqua Zumba classes that are offered each Monday at Cullman Wellness & Aquatic Center beginning at 7 p.m. in the center's indoor pool. Please call 256-775-7946 for additional information!

Tuesday

Festhalle Farmers' Market
The Festhalle Farmers' Market is once again open for business on Tuesdays through the spring and summer, from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. Come visit your local farmers as they offer their homegrown produce for your dinner table.

Cullman Caring for Kids in Need of Donations
If you are able to contribute to Cullman County's Community Food Band, the 'Caring for Kids' organization, they would be grateful. Non-perishable food items are needed, and of course cash enables them to purchase needed products to fill their empty shelves. Please call 256-739-1111 to see how to help or mail checks or money orders to Cullman Caring for Kids, P. O. Box 698, Cullman, Alabama 35056-0698. Thanks in advance for anything you can do.

Emotions Anonymous Support Group Meeting
An Emotions Anonymous Support Group meets each Tuesday at noon at Grace Episcopal Church Carriage House. Those interested are invited to attend these group sessions. Further information is available through the Group Director's office at 256-734-3605 or 256-796-8440.

Ladies' Auxiliary VFW Dance at Post 2214
The Ladies' Auxiliary of VFW Post 2214 invites the community to their weekly Tuesday night dances at the VFW Post building. The country line dance starts at 7 p.m. each Tuesday night, with admission only $5.00 per person. Concessions are available and all proceeds benefit the Auxiliary's local projects.

Wednesday

'Wii Bowling' at the Donald E. Green Senior Center
The entertainment for senior citizens is 'Wii Bowling' at the Donald E. Green Senior Center starting at 1 p.m. Everyone is invited. Come enjoy some exercise (but not too physical!) and fellowship with friends. They bowl every Wednesday and Friday afternoons at 1 p.m.

Latter Day Saints Genealogy Library
The Genealogy Library at the Latter Day Saints (L.D.S.) Church is open to the public each Wednesday night from 7 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. Don Jones is available to open the Library at other times, if needed, so please contact him at 256-784-5098.

Girls & Boys Club at Spirit Life
Spirit Life Church will host a Girls & Boys Club meeting for those 12 and under every Wednesday beginning at 7 p.m. at the church. All are welcome. Please call the church for further info 256-739-3326.

Aqua Zumba Classes at CWAC
Everyone is invited to take part in the Aqua Zumba classes, which are offered each Wednesday at Cullman Wellness & Aquatic Center beginning at 7 p.m. in the center's indoor pool. Please call 256-775-7946 for additional information!

Thursday

Festhalle Farmers' Market
The Festhalle Farmers' Market is once again open for business on Tuesdays through the spring and summer, from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. Come visit your local farmers as they offer their homegrown produce for your dinner table.

Tips for Improving Customer Service
The Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce offers a seminar on 'Tips for Improving Customer Service' from 8:30 a.m. until 9:30 a.m. in the Chambers Business Room. Guest speaker will be Lacy Beasley, a municipal retail consultant with The Shopping Center Group. All welcome but please RSVP by calling the Chamber at 256-734-0454 to reserve a seat.

Elks Lodge Buffet Lunch
Cullman Elks Lodge opens their doors to the general public on Thursdays for their buffet lunches served from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. each Thursday. Meal is $8.00 for two meats, vegetables, drink! So come visit your neighbors and enjoy a great meal to boot.

First Community Bank Women's Investing Class
All women are invited to attend a FREE 'Women's Investing' Class at 12 noon at First Community Bank. This free educational lunchtime meeting is being held to help women learn more about investing for themselves. Bring your own lunch. This is NOT a sales meeting. For additional information please contact Heather Branch at 256-734-4863.

New Vision Support Group
There is a New Vision Support Group which will meet at 10 a.m. and everyone interested in this subject is welcome to attend. The program is at Hilltop Community Center. Additional information is available by calling Linda Estes, 256-739-4653.

ROOT Classes at Grace Episcopal Church
All are welcome to attend special ROOT (Radically Overcoming Obstacles Together) classes each Thursday night beginning at 6 p.m. at Grace Episcopal Church. Food and fellowship begin at 6 p.m. followed at 7 p.m. by the meeting. For additional information please check out Facebook (www.facebook.com/pages/TheRoot) or www.agccullman.com. Come to one class just to see if you are interested in this topic and its purpose. You might be surprised how these meetings can affect your life.

Friday

'Wii Bowling' at the Donald E. Green Senior Center
The entertainment for senior citizens is 'Wii Bowling' at the Donald E. Green Senior Center starting at 1 p.m. Everyone is invited. Come enjoy some exercise (but not too physical!) and fellowship with friends. They bowl every Wednesday and Friday afternoons at 1 p.m. .

Coffee with a Cop
Everyone is invited to attend the next 'Coffee with a Cop' at the dental office of Dr. Jonathan Echols from 7 a.m. until 10 a.m. Come share your concerns and thanks with local cops through this special event.

Flu Shot Clinic
Flu shots will be administered by the Cullman County Health Department from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. with a cost of $5.00 per shot. Those on Medicare getting their shots for free but they must bring their Medicare card to show the nurses. These shots will be administered in the back parking lot at the health department. A second flu shot clinic will take place next Monday, September 30, at Wallace State Community College's Wellness Center from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m.

Chamber of Commerce's 4th Friday Luncheon
Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce offers its monthly 4th Friday Luncheon starting at 11:30 a.m. in the banquet room of the All Steak Restaurant. Sponsored today by the Jimmie Hale Mission, today's speaker with be Dr. Doreen Griffeth, newly appointed Cullman City School Superintendent. Cost for lunch for members is $15.00 per person and $20.00 for 'future' members. Reservations are required and can be made by calling 256-734-0454 or via email at info@cullmanchamber.org. Come enjoy visiting with your fellow Cullmanites, enjoy a great meal and meet the new Superintendent.

PorktoberQue
Oktoberfest meets Barbecue Competition in Dothan, Alabama September 27-28, 2013. This KCBS sanctioned BBQ competition draws teams from across Alabama and features $5,000 in prize money and an entry to the American Royal for the cookoff/ BBQ winner. It is also a stop on the Alabama BBQ Trail and has a points award for national barbecue team rankings. Spectators enjoy polka music, country and rock bands, an indoor Biergarten, outdoor "man cave" and loads of shopping opportunities. Barbecue and Bratwurst dominate the food menus from regional vendors, and beer is available in several areas. Sponsored by MIke Schmitz Auto group- come take a test drive for free tickets, or take a drive at PorktoberQue for great deals! FREE ADMISSION IF YOU DRESS UP IN LEDERHOSEN OR A GERMAN OUTFIT! Kids welcome, many kid's activities available. See www.porktoberque.com for details and info.

Ladies Celebrating Christ: Women of Dignity, Women of Strength
Join us for fellowship and fun as we gather together to celebrate Christ, the author of Dignity and Strength. We will meet Friday, Sept. 27th from 6 p.m. until 9 p.m. and again on, Saturday, Sept. 28th from 9 a.m. until 12 p.m. There is no charge for this event. For more info, call (256) 338-6021 at New Life Church. All are welcome to take part.

Friday Night Dance at the VFW
Cullman's VFW Post 2214 invites everyone to come to their weekly Friday night dances at the VFW Hall from 7 p.m. until 10 p.m. The cost is $5.00 per person and music by the Golden Oldies and Country with the Midnight Highway Band will be filling the air. Funds raised go toward the building rental. Get your dancing shoes on and come out for a great evening of fun and entertainment tonight.

Saturday

Festhalle Farmers' Market
The Festhalle Farmers' Market is once again open for business on Saturdays through the spring and summer, from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. Come visit your local farmers as they offer their homegrown produce for your dinner table.

2nd Annual Garden City Community Yard Sale
The 2nd Annual Garden City Community Yard Sale is today at Garden Trail Park on Highway 31 South. This event will take place from 700 am until 100 pm. Everyone is invited to bring their own 'stuff' and sell. Yard sale spaces are free. For additional information please call Cindy at 256-347-1612. Everyone invited.

Holly Pond Founders' Day Festival
Come one, come all to the annual Holly Pond Founders Day Festival at the Holly Pond Park. Loads of arts and crafts, flea market finds, food, fun and fellowship taking place all day. For additional information please contact Brenda at 256-796-5806 or Carolyn at 256-796-2429. Check out townofhollypond.com.
8 a.m. – All booths open & Quilt Show at Guy Hunt Museum
8:30 a.m. – Parade starts at Holly Pond Middle School Parking Lot
9:15 a.m. – Opening ceremony at stage area
9:45 a.m. – Children's events open, Fiber Guild crafts Demo Open and All Festival Events open
11:30 a.m. – Pie Eating Contest for adults/Jello eating contest for kids under 12 years of age
3 p.m. – Close all events

Ladies Day Out
Ladies, make your plans to take part in the "Ladies Day Out' activities going on at Cullman's McGukin Civic Center. There will be vendors such as Avon, Mary Kay, Oragami Owl, Jordan Essentials, Tupperware, Thirty-One, Be Blessed Jewelry, VK Originals, Handmade jewelry, It Works Body Wraps, and tons more!! FREE admission, door prizes, free facials and demonstrations, all just waiting for you to come thru the doors!! Bring your friends and plan a girl's day away. For further information, email cindysroi@gmail.com.

Good Hope Farmers Market
Local Good Hope farmers and growers will be on hand to sell their produce each Saturday from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m. at Hathcock Park in Good Hope.

Rock Climbing at Hurricane Creek Park
If you are interested in rock climbing then check-in with Hurricane Creek Park for their Saturday morning rock climbing session, starting at 10 a.m. Reservations are required. For more information, call 256-734-2125. Hurricane Creek Park is located on Highway 31 North.

VFW Saturday Night Dance
The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 2214 invites everyone to their weekly Saturday night dances which begin at 7 p.m. and last until 10 p.m. The Boogie Night Band provides music on Saturday nights. Entrance fee is $5.00 for each individual. Come on out and bring your dancing shoes and enjoy an evening of great music, fun, and fellowship!

Next Monday

Cullman Kiwanis Club
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Domestic Violence Survivor Support Group
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Looking Ahead

Cullman Oktoberfest
This year's Cullman Oktoberfest will be held October 5-12, 2013 at Festhalle Market Platz and Cullman County Museum. For more information e-mail jburks@cullmancity.org and visit www.cullmanoktoberfest.com.

Benefit Dinner – Dyron's Lowcountry
Dyron's Lowcountry will host a dinner benefitting St. Bernard Preparatory School beginning at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, October 14, 2013. Cost per person is $75. Reservations may be made by contacting the school at 256-739-6682.

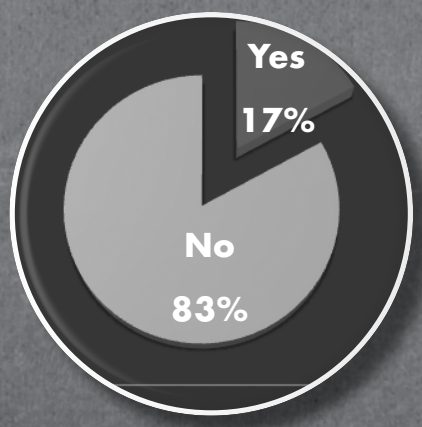
Cullman First United Methodist Church Annual Holiday Bazaar
Cullman First United Methodist Church's Annual Holiday Bazaar is Thursday, November 7, 2014 from 7 am- 4 pm. Event includes baked goods, homemade candies, crafts, sewing, needlework, country store with homemade jellies and fresh produce, silent auction, quilt giveaway and more! Breakfast served 7 a.m.- 9 a.m., and lunch served 11 a.m.- 1 p.m. Proceeds donated to local non-profit agencies. Plenty of parking in lot behind the church, 320 3rd Street, SE.

Saturday, October 19, 2013 – Oktoberfest 5K Trail Run
Cullman, AL Saturday, October 19, 2013 7:15 a.m. St Bernard Prep Oktoberfest 5k Trail Run
Entry Fee - Only $15.00 – Pre-registration is highly encouraged. On-site registration will be $20.00 on race day. www.raceit.com/search/event.aspx?id=23068. Awards – Top 15 runners in the race will receive T-Shirts. Overall male and female winners, masters male and female winners will receive awards provided by "First Place Athletics" The top three male and female finishers will receive medals. The event will precede the Oktoberfest High School Cross Country Meet that begins at 8:45.

Open House - St. Bernard Prep
St. Bernard Prep will host Open House on Sunday, November 10, 2013 at 2 p.m. Families will have an opportunity to visit the school and talk with teachers, students and monks about the educational opportunities at St. Bernard Prep. St. Bernard Prep offers a college preparatory curriculum for students in grades 7-12. For more information visit www.stbernardprep.com or call 256-739-6682.

Last Week's Poll

Have you received the HPV vaccine?



This Week's Poll

Are you afraid to fly?

Vote Today at CullmanSense.com/Poll

Reflections of History

Share your historic photos with us!
E-mail history@cullmansense.com



Nu-Way Cleaners

Contrib. by Cullman County Museum

This Week in History

September 23rd

- 1806 – Lewis and Clark return to St. Louis from Pacific Northwest
- 1879 – Richard Rhodes invented a hearing aid called the Audiophone
- 1949 – Truman announces evidence of U.S.S.R.'s first nuclear device detonation

September 24th

- 1657 – First autopsy and coroner's jury verdict is recorded in state of Maryland
- 1862 – Confederate Congress adopts confederacy seal
- 1968 – "60 Minutes" premieres on CBS-TV

September 25th

- 1639 – Suzuki Shosan, Samurai monk of Zen Buddhism, found awakening
- 1804 – 12th amendment to U.S. constitution, regulating judicial power
- 1992 – U.S. Mars Observer launched from Space shuttle

September 26th

- 1772 – New Jersey passes bill requiring a license to practice medicine
- 1890 – U.S. stops minting $1 and $3 gold coin and 3 cent piece
- 1951 – Professor Youngblood demonstrates artificial heart in Paris

September 27th

- 1779 – John Adams negotiates Revolutionary War peace terms with Britain
- 1892 – Book matches are patented by Diamond Match Company
- 1928 – U.S. recognizes Nationalist Chinese government

September 28th

- 1829 – Walker's Appeal, racial antislavery pamphlet, published in Boston
- 1904 – Woman arrested for smoking a cigarette in a car on 5th Avenue, New York City
- 1950 – Indonesia becomes 60th member of UN

September 29th

- 1938 – Treaty of Munich signed by Hitler, Mussolini, Daladier and Chamberlain
- 2010 – The U.S. House of Representatives imposes trade sanctions against China, which is believed to be undervaluing the yuan

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Berkeley Bob's Coffee House
Berlin Plaza Quick Stop
Brandin Iron Steakhouse
Busy Bee Cafe
Calley's Jet-Pep - Hwy. 278
Catoma Mart
Cullman Civic Center
Cullman County Courthouse
Cullman Wellness & Aquatics Center
Deb's Bookstore
Fairview Superette
Good Hope Grocery
Graves' BP 157
Hanceville Chevron
High Quality Fuels - Dodge City
Holly Pond Cafe
Holly Pond Supermarket
Jet Pep - Hwy 157
Joe's Freeway Exxon
Johnny's Bar-B-Q
Lowry's Discount Mart - Hwy. 157
Piggly Wiggly - Hwy. 157
Rumors Deli
S&S Foods
Southmart Chevron - Hwy. 278
The Hutch
Vinemont Super Saver
Wendy's / Texaco
West Point Superette

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Community Matters

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Infinity: A Marvel Comics Event in Six Parts (Issue 1 of 6)

By: Dillon Lee • Entertainment Editor
dillon@cullmansense.com

Modern comic books are an event driven industry, especially the big two- Marvel and DC. Currently, DC Comics is pitting their three Justice League titles against one another. Meanwhile, Marvel, in their "Marvel Now" initiative, have been building towards a conflict of massive and multiversal scale in their flagship titles- The Avengers and The New Avengers. The event called *Infinity*, began last month, with the first and second issue now on the shelves. The first issue features the foreboding grimace of Thanos, the ultimate villain teased at the end of the blockbuster *Avengers* movie.

On its surface, such an event is no surprise. Marvel almost invented the superstar comic book miniseries. They caught headlines and national news coverage when Marvel heroes clashed in 2007's Civil War event and gained even more attention when Captain America was seeming assassinated in the aftermath. That kind of media blitz, gracing USA Today, Fox News, and CNN, was before Marvel was bought by the powerhouse that is Disney. So, the obvious thought is that "Marvel will go bigger and flashier." Instead, *Infinity* seems to be a more carefully constructed complex storyline.

Orchestrated by Marvel superstar writer, Jonathan Hickman, one of Marvel's Architects, the roots of this story span almost a year as the Avengers team, in *The Avengers* title, attempted to go larger to face strange alien threats. As Captain America, Iron Man, Hawkeye, Thor, Hulk, and Black Widow build an expanded roster to face the agents of the "Builders" who promote the constant change and reinvention of life deemed unfit, Hickman brought together an entirely different and secret group of Marvel characters in *New Avengers* to combat a problem intrinsically more complicated.

In the build-up, several themes have been repeated. "It was an Avengers World" and "The Machine (or universe) is broken" are the most commonly repeated mantras.

Infinity is the culmination of these events. The Builders- an ancient and unstoppable force dedicated to reinventing life- is headed towards Earth, blistering and decimating all systems in its path. While an "incursion event" threatens to smash two earths together in *New Avengers,* the greatest minds of the Marvel universe must face the ultimate moral dilemma- do you destroy an alternate Earth in order to save your own? The icing on this disastrous cake is Thanos, who uses the chaos besieging the Earth's Mightiest Heroes to invade a defenseless Earth in his mad quest for power.

So, fans of hard science fiction have a solid home in the story of *Infinity,* as do readers that want more from a traditional "super hero" comic.

What length do heroes go to in order to save those they love? What happens when the threats faced can't be punch, kicked, or blasted into obscurity? What makes an Avenger and what constitutes a hero?

The Marvel Universe, always steeped in a more realistic world, is asking dark questions and bringing on an area of questionable morality for seemingly unshakable icons.

Marvel has gone to great lengths to make their stories carry weight, to make actions echo with consequence. And while *Infinity* is not yet resolved, the potential to resolve these complex scenarios and answer these truly challenging questions is abundant. Will the Marvel universe continue to be "an Avengers world" or will the events of *Infinity* make it a world of greys?

Infinity #1 and #2 are available now on bookshelves and online at Marvel.com or through Comixology app on mobile devices.

Recommend readings: The Avengers (2012) Issues #1-18, New Avengers (2012) Issues #1-9, Shield: Architects of Forever- All written by Jonathan Hickman

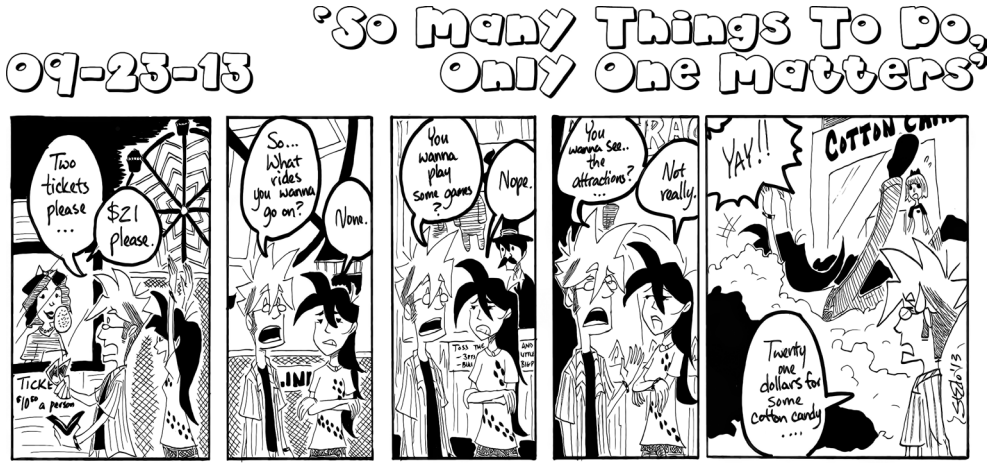
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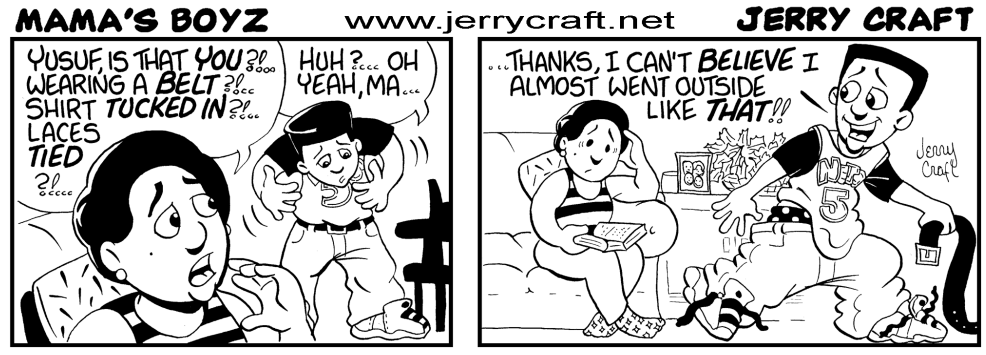
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Filmmaking Masterminds: Quentin Tarantino - *Kill Bill Review Part II*

By: Jackson Hogan
Entertainment Reporter

A Synthesis of the Iliad and Kill Bill

The most ancient of Western media, the *Iliad* by Homer, begins so: "Rage - Goddess, sing the rage of Peleus' son Achilles, murderous, doomed." The very cornerstone of our intellectual tradition begins with an invocation to a primal representation of entertainment to bring forth the song of the most effective warrior to ever wield a weapon. Our most core text is about a primal emotion in a primal character: the rage of Achilles.

Fast forward a few thousand years. People teach the *Iliad* in all its gory poetic glory, revering it as the base of all literature, while movies centered around a theme of violence are often condemned, deemed unworthy of viewing, let alone worthy of scholarly critique. This is a double-standard that denies the truth of our heritage and the truth that violence can be a core ascetic theme, rendered beautiful by the right mind, the truth that negative primal emotion can be a powerful driving force behind a protagonist.

Last week, CullmanSense began its review of Quentin Tarantino's most genius narrative, *Kill Bill*, by analyzing its nuts and bolts: the acting, sound, and vision. Now we will delve further into this work by appreciating its plot, exploring the ins and outs of this Tarantino tale of mythological proportions, and pointing out its epic nature.

Violent, primal, and gritty, *Kill Bill* and the *Iliad* share points across the board. They are both told in an episodic nature: the *Iliad* in scrolls, *Kill Bill* in chapters. In both, each section is tied to the story as a whole, but stands alone as well, imparting its own contribution to beauty and meaning as a separate tale that is a part of a larger mythology.

The *Iliad* only directly sings the song of a brief period in the decade long Trojan War, but through micro-narratives within each chapter the story of not only the war but of Greece itself is shared, its geography and gods and heroes. *Kill Bill* plays a similar game, giving us only the direct tale of the Bride's killing spree through "real time" moments, but delivering the story of the Bride's training, escape, betrayal, and resurrection through flashbacks.

From a cast viewpoint, the way the hierarchy of the characters is organized is almost exactly the same. There is the highest level whose duel (The Bride and Bill; Achilles and Hector) is the climax of the story, and whose death brings about the end. There are the lower level heroes (O-Ren Ishii, Elle Driver, Budd; Odysseus, Diomedes, Agammemnon) whose separate stories are incorporated as micro-narratives into the larger tale. Then there are the nobodies whose lives are straw in the winds of these higher beings (the Greek and Trojan foot soldiers; the Crazy 88). This multilayered chain of narrative importance brings about similarities that are impossible not to notice once both stories are reviewed.

The most meaningful correlation is between the prime movers of the narratives: the Bride (hereby referred to with her real name, Beatrix Kiddo) and Achilles. Each are mythically powerful; the Bride singlehandedly dismantles an army of Yakuza swordslingers, and Achilles essentially routes an entire nation of fighting Trojans. Both are killers by birth. Each suffer the injustice of dishonor and betrayal: Achilles is robbed of his honor by his king, later robbed of his beloved Patroclus; Kiddo's husband, wedding party, and unborn child are taken from her through death and treachery, while she is left for dead by her former lover Bill.

Most importantly, both are driven by dark emotions that consume their entire being. For Achilles, that emotion is blind furious rage. For Beatrix Kiddo, it is calculated revenge. The opening frame of the movie, echoing the opening line of Achilles, references the core of the whole work: "Revenge is a dish best served cold." The entirety of the cinema is built on this vendetta core.

This exposition on the correlation between the two works serves a double purpose: first, to reveal striking cultural threads that run through millennia of media and highlight the epic nature of this modern work; second, to discount any argument that Kill Bill is an intellectually irrelevant movie based on its lack of realism or excessive violence.

For if both those traits are embodied at the very heart of the tradition of storytelling, but those traits equal inappropriateness, then that would mean all of writing is irrelevant and inappropriate.

So to the core of this argument.

Kill Bill is not only Tarantino's masterpiece, but a continuation of the epic tradition in literature. Filled with the previously mentioned similarities, it holds water when compared to the epics of our heritage such as the Homeric epic poems. Its roots are ancient, not modern.

Even its use of homage is based in the ancient world, as the epic poems were combinations of lesser narratives into one larger one, much in the same way Tarantino weaves his cheesy kung fu, Japanese sword fighting, and spaghetti western genres into this one distilled product much greater than the sum of its parts. Though it is unlikely Tarantino was aware of any of this, it matters not; the work is a product of its culture, a culture that includes the epic tradition and perhaps accidentally is a part of it.

The reason this is valid is the same reason the epic poems were valid in their own historical contexts: they brought together and somehow defined an entire culture. For the Greeks and Romans it was a religious and political heritage; for Kill Bill, it is a pop culture heritage. In a sense, it solidifies the works of an entire generation into one grand epic, transforming what was cheesy into brilliant, and building off of what was already genius.

Kill Bill is a pinnacle creation, a narrative that captures the essence of entire genres of storytelling, even defining the zeitgeist of a cinematic tradition.

U.S. Nuclear Policy: Where's our credibility?

By: Robert Dodge, MD

BRIEF BIO
Robert F. Dodge, M.D., serves on the boards of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, Beyond War, Physicians for Social Responsibility Los Angeles, and Citizens for Peaceful Resolutions, and writes for PeaceVoice.

Einstein said, "You cannot simultaneously prevent and prepare for war."

This week the world is intently watching developments in Syria hoping and praying for a peaceful solution. As the United Nations convenes its 68th general assembly there is a strong push for peace and hope that the UN can realize one of its most important missions, the prevention of war. All nations and particularly those of the Security Council have an opportunity and obligation to promote this process. Ultimately the outcome of this crisis affects the fate of the planet. In adherence to international law with the ban on the use of chemical weapons and holding accountable those who use them we see parallels when it comes to the greatest existential threat we face, the use of nuclear weapons. This is a time for leadership by example.

This week provides the world two important opportunities to demonstrate this leadership.

September 21 is the International Day of Peace observed around the world each year. It was established in 1981 by the United Nations General Assembly to coincide with its opening session as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, both within and among all nations and peoples.

In 2001, the General Assembly by unanimous vote established September 21 as the official annual day of nonviolence and cease-fire.

The United Nations invites all nations and people to honor a cessation of hostilities during the Day, and to otherwise commemorate the Day through education and public awareness on issues related to peace.

Each year, the Day has a theme and this year it is "Education for Peace." UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon declared, "On this International Day of Peace, let us pledge to teach our children the value of tolerance and mutual respect. Let us invest in the schools and teachers that will build a fair and inclusive world that embraces diversity. Let us fight for peace and defend it with all our might."

Thursday, September 26th the UN will host the first ever High-Level Meeting on Nuclear Disarmament.

Every nation in the world has been invited to participate at the highest political level. We have never been at such a moment of crisis and opportunity.

Crisis because the two states with over 95 percent of the world's nuclear arsenals, the U.S. and Russia have decided to boycott the meeting, and opportunity because the vast majority of the world's countries support the advancement of a convention banning nuclear weapons similar to the chemical weapons convention. These countries representing a majority of people on the planet are held hostage to the cold war policies of the nuclear dinosaurs.

Ultimately actions speak louder than words.

Instead of honoring the significance of these dates and working in good faith to achieve nuclear disarmament, the United States has chosen to schedule two tests of its Minuteman III Intercontinental Ballistic Missile on September 22 and September 26.

Just hours after the International Day of Peace ends, the U.S. plans to launch a Minuteman III – the missile that delivers U.S. land-based nuclear weapons – from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California to the Kwajalein Atoll in the Marshall Islands.

Then, on the same day that most countries will send their head of state or foreign minister to New York for the UN's first-ever High-Level Meeting on nuclear disarmament, the U.S. plans to send another Minuteman III missile from California to the Marshall Islands.

These missiles are designed to carry nuclear warheads capable of killing thousands of times more people than the chemical weapons used in Syria.

The insensitive timing, indeed the provocation of these tests, is remarkable. Where is our credibility? Imagine if North Korea, Iran, Pakistan, or China were carrying out these same tests at this time. What would our response be? The unexamined assumption that we can continue these tests and behaviors while demanding the opposite of others begs explanation and defies reason. As Gandhi is so often quoted, "We must be the change we want to see in the world."

We can and must demand better of President Obama and our elected officials. Change must begin at home.

Let our collective voices be heard loud and clear. For ultimately the actions we take today define the world we hand to our children. The choice is ours.



Aderholt: "I Stand in Strong Support of a Continuing Resolution that Defunds Obamacare"

Contributed

Congressman Robert Aderholt (AL-04) released the following statement in support of H.J.Res. 59, a short-term Continuing Resolution (CR) that defunds Obamacare, funds the government through December 15th and provides appropriators an opportunity to continue working on FY 2014 bills and ensure that House Republican priorities are reflected in the bills sent to the Senate.

"I stand in strong support of a Continuing Resolution that defunds Obamacare and offers the Senate and the Administration one more chance to finish our Appropriations bills in regular order," said Aderholt. "Obamacare is a train wreck. It's bad for American families, it's bad for small businesses, it's bad for doctors and hospitals, and it's bad for our nation's economy." "Further, according to the Administration that wanted it, it's also not ready. Congress has a real opportunity to stop this train wreck and H.J.Res. 59 is the right way to do it. The House has voted nearly 40 times to repeal, replace, dismantle or defund all or portions of Obamacare. The House has done our job, it is time for the Senate to do theirs. Including language in the base text of short-term Continuing Resolution will force the Senate to finally address the issue and show American's where they stand."

"Also, H.J.Res. 59 adds a provision that would require the Treasury to make good on public debt payments, should America reach the debt ceiling. This would ensure that the White House would not be able to play politics with benefits like Social Security and disability payments." "As the clock ticks us days closer to the implementation of Obamacare and the end of the fiscal year, we know the time to act is now. I hope my colleagues in the Senate will join me in doing what is right for the American people and support H.J.Res. 59," concluded Aderholt.

Aderholt currently serves as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies for the powerful House Appropriations Committee, is a member of the Committee's Commerce, Justice and Science; and Homeland Security Subcommittees, and also serves on the Helsinki Commission.

For more information about Aderholt's work in Congress visit www.aderholt.house.gov.



Duck River Dam (from Front)

By: Noah Chandler
noahchandler@cullmansense.com

CULLMAN – 21 years after selecting Duck River as the site for Cullman County's newest water reserve, the project has been mired by lawsuits, technical snags, and various unforeseen geological challenges which have delayed work on the proposed dam site.

On Monday, officials with CH2M HILL met with the Cullman City Council, Cullman Utilities Board, and others to discuss an increase in the cost of construction of the dam from the originally estimated $64 million to a potential $104 million build.

Dale Greer, Assistant Director Cullman Economic Development Agency, has been the Project Manager of the Water Reservoir Project since the grant was obtained in 1993.

"The real deal was in the dam; there was a Phase 1 that you did all the geological testing you did on that and you got into the tail end of that portion and you physically go out and remove the overburden for the dam footprint. You do your diversion, your testing for the ground; you physically get to see all the soil conditions in total instead of in part," Greer said.

"They (CH2M HILL) told us four months ago that as they were removing the overburden they saw some geological conditions that were not exactly what they had anticipated and they said it would be a significant cost increase," he continued.

"And they asked us to give them 120 days to Value Engineer the project to look at ways that they could reduce that cost before they shared those final numbers with us and that sort of thing."

When asked if Greer or any others were concerned with 120 days to Value Engineer the project before discussing figures, he quickly replied, "no."

"I don't think that it was presented as minor they (CH2M HILL) said it would be considerable cost; considerable, how do you put or place a value on that? But when people would ask them, and there were a number who asked, said 'can you give us some idea' they (CH2M HILL) said 'no, what we want to do is go through the Value Engineering first and that kind of thing and see what the cost savings could be.' The final number they came up with they said had some Value Engineering where they had made some savings and some cost reductions. I'm sure they just thought it was such a significant number that they had to look more to see if there were some alternatives to making some significant changes," Greer said.

Following the four months of Value Engineering, CH2M HILL presented their findings to Greer and others on Monday.

"What they (CH2M HILL) said that their primary issue was the geology. That they didn't have the rock that they had anticipated for the spillway, they didn't have the right soil condition for the RCC – Roller Compacted Concrete dam – and they ended up having to develop, based on what nature had given them there, was a hybrid. That is a partial roller compacted concrete in the center with the two earth wings that was the cheapest process for what we had on that site."

The next phase of discussion was the cost increase, to which came as a shock to many involved in the project.

"We had been working under the assumption and premise that it had always been around $70 million, 65'ish, and they came back and said their final number on the projections today was $104 million," Greer said.

"They (CH2M HILL) did a breakdown and went through some of the expense of. The dam is currently estimated to be more expensive by an additional $28 million. And the major components there are the spillway of $18 million more; the soil-grouting to fill in those geologic failures, or conditions or weaknesses that they discovered is $5 million. And then shoring the two earth wings, where they will build them into the concrete – the roller compacted concrete was $4 million. And then there was some other costs, just associated with the time increase, the pipeline that had been there," he concluded.

Greer said the steep increase, the nearly 40% rise in cost, shocked the parties involved. He said once the initial shock wears off; all parties involved will have to seek a solution.

"For us it was, I mean it's numbing. You just didn't expect that kind of number. I think it's been sticker shock for all of us," Greer said. "This is, in my mind, a decision by the City of Cullman Utilities Board, and never has been. You've got to go back to all of the independent systems again – the partners, the county – meet with them, show them all the information that you've got and say 'what do you do now? Is it something you can afford? How can you lessen the cost?' and I think that's what you got to do," he concluded.

The findings were fully released on Monday, September 16. Greer said even though the project is more than two decades old, the revelations made on Monday are quite new.

"We are so early in having that information – I don't know how you can say early after 20 years – but you're early in a process of this new development off of that geology, and you got to see what impact that is, how you deal with it, and if there is a way to lessen those numbers."

With work continuing on a diversion pipeline, Greer said time must be taken to evaluate all decisions before moving forward on any phase of construction of the dam itself.

"You know we got a contractor on site. We have them building, we have them building the diversion tunnel. They are moving – we're moving the timber off the property, on all of the property...you know I don't think you can stop everything. I think you've got a couple of months to evaluate this, but you've got an open construction site that they've got to continue to monitor with runoff water and that kind of thing," Greer said. "But I think you stop any of the engineering aspects that you have going on, in that design, until you get a second look at this to see if there is some other options or potential or something."

For the full audio interview with Dale Greer, Assistant Director Cullman Economic Development Agency and Project Manager of the Water Reservoir Project as well as the presentation given by CH2M HILL on Monday, September 16, 2013 visit http://qrne.ws/duckriver.

Below are the initial estimates which were tabulated in 2009. Also located below is the chronological order of events as recalled by DuckRiver.org.

Cost Summary from November 2009 (source www.duckriver.org)

Below is the current cost estimate for the Duck River Reservoir Project. This estimate is based on studies completed by the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, as well as independent engineering firms and updated to November 2009 dollars.

Property Acquisition	$6.3 million
Relocations	$5.0 million
Clearing & Grubbing	$1.3 million
Dam	$28.6 million
Intake & Main	$13.5 million
Cultural Resource	$0.4 million
Engineering & Design	$7.7 million
Construction Management	$3.2 million
Total	$65.9 million

History of Duck River Dam (source www.duckriver.org)

The search for an alternative water source for the Cullman County region began in the 1990s. Officials from the City of Cullman, the Cullman County Commission, and the Morgan County Commission formed the Cullman Morgan Water District to research the issue and to determine the best plan of action.

The following timeline covers the entire history of this project and what has occurred since its inception.

1993

- The original study is financed by a $5 million grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC). The grant is justified because of the poultry industry and agriculture. The study is conducted by the Nashville Division of the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers.
- The original study, which cost $125,000, identifies a dam on Duck River as the best alternative based on cost and supply.
- A nine member local group, the Cullman Morgan Water District, is formed to consider alternatives and to make final recommendations. **This group included:**
  - Chairman of the Cullman County Commission
  - Mayor of the City of Cullman
  - District 3 Morgan County Commissioner
  - Three Appointees by the County (including one from the independent water systems)
  - Three Appointees by the City

1994

- A second study, also paid through the ARC grant, is conducted by the Corp of Engineers, along with assistance from two engineering firms – Almon and Associates and St. John and Associates. The second study, which cost $150,000, validates the Duck River Alternative as the best choice for the region.

1996

- An application for a dam on the Duck River was submitted to the Corps of Engineers.
- The Cullman Morgan Water District begins preparation of the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Duck River Project.

1998

- Cullman County Commission votes to join the City of Cullman in sponsoring the Duck River Reservoir Project along with VAW, East Cullman, Walter, Johnson Crossing, and the City of Cullman Water Systems.

1999

- Environmental Assessment is completed and submitted to the Mobile District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

2000

- February, the Mobile District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers issues a 404 Permit for the Duck River Reservoir Project.
- April, the American Canoe Association sues the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, alleging that they had permitted the Duck River Reservoir Project without conducting enough environmental studies. The plaintiff's side is joined by the Alabama Rivers Alliance, Friends of the Mulberry Fork, and WildLaw Alabama.

2003

- In August 2003, a federal judge rules that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 404 Permit for the dam is vacated. She states that need for this project has been justified, but the Corp of Engineers needed to provide more information on the following 3 areas:
  - Downstream Effects
  - Cumulative Impacts
  - Water Quality
- The Cullman Utilities Board hired the engineering firm CH2M Hill to begin addressing the concerns that were identified.

2004

- A 162-page Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the Duck River Project is released that addresses the concerns of the August 2003 judge's ruling.

2006

- In November 2006, The U.S. Army Corp of Engineers re-issues the 404 Permit for construction of the Duck River Dam and Reservoir.

2007

- In August 2007, the Alabama Rivers Alliance (ARA) files a new lawsuit in federal court. The ARA expressed concern about the dam's impact on the community, quality of life, and recreation.

2009

- March, the judge considered all information and dismisses the lawsuit which upholds 404 Permit and gives the Cullman Utilities Board permission to move forward with the Duck River Project.
- November, the Utility Board authorizes the Corps of Engineers to move forward with updating of Plans and Specs for Phase I construction of the Duck River Project. Phase I consists of clearing and grubbing, foundation preparation and grouting, and the determination of quantities of construction materials at borrow sites.
- November, the City of Cullman Water Department, Walter Water Authority, East Cullman Water Authority, and Johnsons Crossing Water Authority all sign 30 year contracts to purchase water from the City of Cullman in support of the Duck River Reservoir Project.
- December, the VAW Water Authority signs a 30 year contract to purchase water from the City of Cullman in support of the Duck River Reservoir Project.
- December, the VAW Water Authority, City of Cullman Water Department, Walter Water Authority, East Cullman Water Authority, and Johnsons Crossing Water Authority all send letters to Congressman Robert Aderholt in support of appropriation requests for the Duck River Reservoir Project.
- Alabama Poultry and Egg Association sends a support letter.
- Cullman County Medical Society vote unanimously to support the Duck River Project.

2010

- March, the Cullman County Farmers Federation votes to support the Duck River Reservoir Project.

2012 – Present

- Groundbreaking and excavation

Share your opinion on this story. E-mail voice@cullmansense.com.